storms in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and by untimely rains and gusty winds in Uttar Pradesh resulting in fall in yield of opium.

The opium cultivators are required to tender their entire produce of opium to the Central Government. Government also prescribes every year minimum qualifying yield which a cultivator must have tendered to the Government in the previous year to become eligible for licence to cultivate opium poppy. The minimum qualifying yield fixed for granting licences for 1991-92 has been fixed at 34 kgs. per hectare in the case of M.P. and Rajasthan and 32 kgs. per hectare in the case of U.P. To ensure that cultivators in whose village there was some damage/ widespread damage to their crops are not delicensed, a provision has been made in the licensing policy that the licences of such cultivators will be renewed even if they had tendered opium less than the prescribed qualifying yield.

Replacement of Old DTC Buses

1411. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of D.T.C. buses which have over lived their life;

(b) the reasons for not withdrawing these buses from operation; and

(c) the time by which these buses would be replaced by new buses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT: (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on 31.10.91 DTC had 1, 520 buses which are over 8 year old.

(b) and (c). Replacement of overaged buses is a continuing process. During the year 1991-92, there is a provision of Rs. 43.25 crores for purchase of buses on replacement account. In the meantime with a view to ensure continuity of services and to avoid public complains through disruption of services, DTC has been constrained to operate these buses.

Closed and Under-Utilised NTC Mills in Uttar Pradesh

1412. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the NTC mills in Uttar Pradesh which have been lying closed or have been under-utilising their capacity at present;

(b) the losses incurred and number of workers rendered unemployed due to closure of these mills;

(c) whether the Government propose to transfer the management of these mills to the private sector; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There is a lock-out in Lord Krishna Textile Mills, Saharanpur for more than 2 months as a consequence of widespread labour unrest. However, negotiations are in progress with the trade unions so that lock-out in this mill, may be lifted.

As regards under-utilisation of the mills in NTC (U.P), the average utilisation is to the extent of 59.7%. The capacity utilisation is below average in the case of 6 mills in NTC (U.P).

(b) Due to lock out in Lord Krishna

Textile Mills there has been no additional losses incurred by NTC. All the 11 mills of NTC (U.P) have incurred losses during the first 7 months, i.e., April-October, 1991 of the order of Rs. 24.65 crores. No worker has been rendered out of job due to lock out of Lord Krishna Textile Mills.

(c) and (d). Various alternatives are under consideration of the Government as a long term solution to curtail heavy losses incurred by NTC (UP) and to revitalise them.

Opening of Branches of RRBS at Panchayat Headquarters

1413. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks opened during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open branches of Regional Rural Banks at every Panchayat headquarter in the country; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) State-wise number of branches of Regional Rural Banks opened during the last three calender years upto November, 1991 are given below:-

Name of State	*No. of branches opened during last three years*
Andhra Pradesh	31
Arunachal Pradesh	4
Assam	41
Bihar	77
Gujarat	50
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu & Kashmir	12
Karnataka	20
Madhya Pradesh	32
Maharashtra	41
Manipur	5